



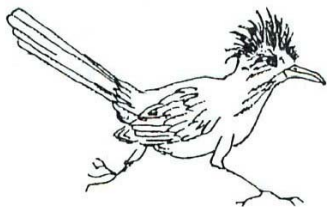
# VIP2VIP



Season 4, Volume 2

Big Bend National Park's Volunteer Newsletter

December 2004



Lynda Fanning demonstrates how to give two-fingered compressions for infants



Gary Stevens demonstrates how to open the airway, on an infant, using the head tilt-chin lift

Several volunteers either renewed or obtained their CPR certification by attending recent CPR courses



Erv Drabek places the AED pads on the patient's chest



Mark Kirtley prepares to use the AED

## CURRENT VOLUNTEERS

### PERSIMMON GAP

Bob & Sally Jones- Interpretation  
Mark Kirtley- Interpretation

### RIO GRANDE VILLAGE

Bill & Barbara Baldwin- Campground Hosts  
Royce & Royann Brockett- Campground Hosts  
Erv & Sam Drabek- Backcountry  
Bob & Lynda Fanning- Interpretation  
John & Gail Kamaras- Interpretation

### CHISOS BASIN

Jim & Ginny Herrick- Interpretation  
Dennis & Mary Lou Leeder- Campground Hosts  
Bob & Carol Schemm- Campground Hosts

### CASTOLON

Nancy Bauer- Interpretation  
Steve Harper- Backcountry & Campground Host  
Whitney Hibbard and Samantha Schroeder-  
Backcountry and Campground Host  
Gary Stevens & Nan Wilson- Interpretation;

### PANTHER JUNCTION

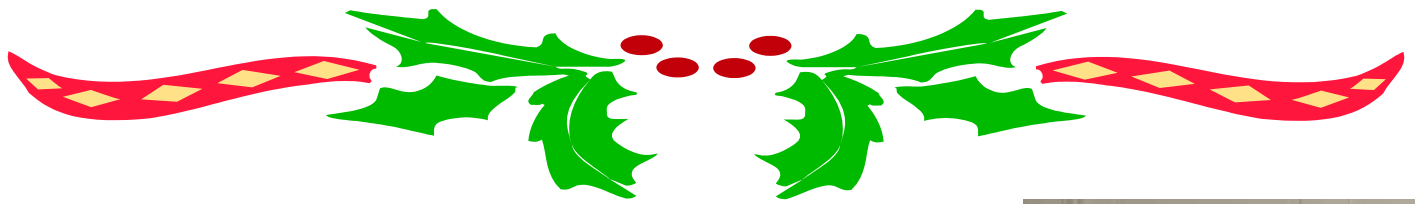
Nathan Dammeyer- Interpretation - SCA  
Gary & Diane Frable - River  
Bud Frankenberger - Science and Resource Management  
Kim Miller- Interpretation - SCA  
Danielle Norris- Interpretation - SCA  
Bob & Scarlett Wirt- Science and Resource Management  
Bob Thomson- Volunteer Coordinator's Assistant

### Part-time Volunteers

Judy Brinkerhoff- Science and Resource Management  
John Davies- Visitor and Resource Protection  
Meghan Hicks- Interpretation  
Steve Wick- Science and Resource Management

**This issue is devoted to the volunteers who work in Castolon and the Basin.**

*Happy Holidays*



## *Welcoming Our New Volunteers*

### **Nancy Bauer Castolon – Visitor Center**



Nancy learned what it means to be a Buckeye by growing up in the state of Ohio. After graduating from college, with a degree in Spanish, she wasted no time packing her bags and headed for the West Coast. She attended graduate school at UCLA for additional training in Spanish and teaching English as a second language, but opted instead for a career in publishing. For over 25 years, she has worked on staff or free-lanced as an editor/writer, mostly on textbook and multimedia projects and, later, management training materials. She has two daughters— an urban designer living in New Zealand and the other is a teacher living in Los Angeles. Nancy just recently attained grandmother status with nine-month-old grandson, Kai. For the past six years Nancy has enjoyed wildlife gardening. (Gardening which is environmentally friendly to birds, butterflies, and other critters.) She writes and teaches on the subject in the San Francisco Bay Area. Being a nature lover, Nancy looks forward to any opportunity to do some hiking .. at home, the mountains and coastal areas of northern California, and recently, Vancouver Island in British Colombia. Travels have included South America, Japan, Europe, and over four months in the intermediate cloudforest of Coast Rica.

### **Dennis & Mary Lou Leeder Basin – Campground Hosts**

Newly retired, Dennis and Mary Lou has honored Big Bend by selecting our park for their first volunteer position. Their desire to help people makes them ideal campground hosts.

Dennis grew up working with his hands. He worked along his father's side in his Dad's TV repair business. As a teenager he enjoyed working on cars. Living in the country he attended a one room school house. Later, Dennis graduated from a trade school as a class A auto mechanic. In the mid 1970s, he started his career in the sale and service of RVs. The last 47 years of his working life he was employed by a psychiatric hospital where he drove patients to doctor's appointments and to group homes or functions.



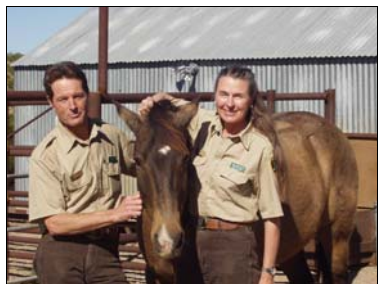
As a young child, Mary Lou lived on a farm located in a reenactment village. There she attended a one room school house. Interested in behavioral science and life skills, she later earned an associate degree in these subjects. Finding this training helpful, Mary Lou spent the last 20 years working with the Red Cross. She assisted 90 – 102 year old individuals to care for themselves at home instead of moving to a nursing home.

Dennis and Mary Lou have always made their home in Brockville, Ontario. They been married for 32 years and have one son. He lives in Australia.

They both share the joy of motorcycling. Dennis has owned different motorcycles throughout his life and they currently are proud owners of a Harley. When Mary Lou is not riding this bike with her husband, she enjoys reading about the history of the American and Canadian Indians.

Over the years they have traveled 47 states in their RV. When they retired in August 2002, they became full time RVers and plan to experience this life style until June 2006. They're planning on visiting Alaska this coming summer and returning to the south for next winter.





## Whitney Hibbard & Samantha Schroeder

Castolon - Campground  
Host & Backcountry

Each summer Whit and Samantha manages part of their family cattle ranch located on the Continental Divide in Montana. Attending to 505 steers required a lot of hard work: maintenance of 35 miles of fence; weed control; the development of springs; the installation of stock water tanks; pasture rotation; field doctoring (which required roping and getting a steer down for injections); and gathering cattle for shorting and shipping. They spend a considerable amount of their time on horseback.

Their carpentry skills were put to good use as they completed the construction of a log cabin. They also renovated a log barn.

Whit and Samantha had to take control over a temporary problem. Their area became flooded due to beavers damming a creek.

One of their greatest highlights this past summer was attending a three day horse training seminar conducted by Ray Hunt. Mr. Hunt is a famous expert of natural horsemanship.

Whit found spare time to continue his education in human science as he completed his Ph.D. dissertation. He also attended a two week ranger law enforcement training course at Glacier National Park.

Whit sponsored a beaver trapment and fur trade reenactment held on their family ranch. This historical event required the wearing of buckskin clothing, rifles and traps of the 1820-40 era.

Between range responsibilities, Whit rode his Harley. He even made a bike trip to Big Hole Battlefield.

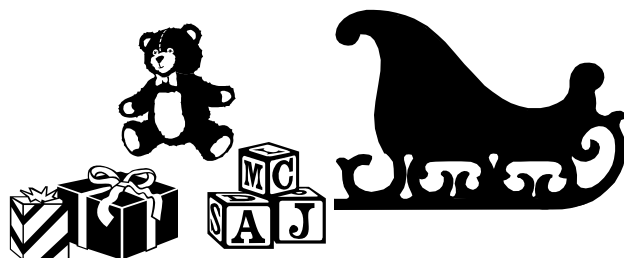
While hiking in the Smith River Canyon, Samantha found, and excavated, a full buffalo skull. It was located under a large boulder. She also worked on her reproduction of Plains Indian beadwork. These are of a historic museum quality. She gives these away as gifts or adds them to her collection.

Whit and Samantha will be of service to Big Bend until May as they volunteer for their third season here.



### Christmas Eve Service

Join Dr. John Kamaras in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ! There will be 35 – 45 minutes of song and worship at the Rio Grande Amphitheater on December 24 at 7:00pm



### Say Farewell to Our SCAs

Be sure to join us as the volunteers say farewell to our new found friends: Nathan Dammeyer, Kim Miller and Danielle Norris at the January VIP Potluck



### Bob & Carol Schemm

#### Basin - Campground Hosts

Bob and Carol enjoy volunteering at Big Bend as they make this their sixth season here.

What they especially like is meeting a lot of nice people who visit our park. Bob and Carol will be here till the end of December.

After departing Big Bend last year, Bob and Carol visited Tucson and Oklahoma City traveling by car. They then volunteered as campground hosts at the Wind Cave National Park located in South Dakota. For the past 9 years, Carol and Bob have served there from mid-May to September 10 overseeing 75 sites.

Bob had an experience of being attacked by javelinas! After dark one evening, while walking his dog, they were chased by two javelinas. Bob fell, and while screaming, had to kick one of them to frighten them away.

### Activities & Events

**Orphan Holiday Dinner** – Friday, Dec. 24, 6:30 PM;  
250 Bobcat Loop – bring a side dish or dessert to share – all are invited

**Christmas Eve Service** – Friday, Dec. 24, 7:00 PM;  
Rio Grande Amphitheater

**New Year Eve's Game Night** – Friday, Dec. 31, 7:30 PM – 12:00 am; PJ Community Room – bring a game & refreshments to share; sign up on PJ's bulletin board or contact Mary Kay Gordon at ext. 101

**VIP Potluck** – Wednesday, Jan. 5, 6:30 PM;  
PJ Community Room.

**Big Bend's Ultra Relay** – Sunday, Jan. 16 – need to run 12.5 miles; contact Gary Stevens at 477-2659 or 477-2666

**Girl Scout Cookie Sale** – Tuesday, Jan. 18, 3:30 – 6:00 PM; PJ's rear entrance – or contact Lisa Spier at 477-2463





## **Gary Stevens & Nan Wilson**

### **Castolon - Visitor Center**

Sharing a strong interest in the history of Castolon, Gary and Nan are an ideal couple as interpreters for the Castolon Visitor Center.

Gary was raised on a 500 acre dairy farm in Redding, Connecticut. He later obtained a degree in biology from Western Michigan University by working his way through college as a mouse trainer. This special talent was just the beginning of his career in animal health as he devoted himself to pharmaceutical sales for animal care.

Nan grew up in northern Ohio and remembers traveling through 48 states, 9 European countries, Canada and Mexico with her family on camping trips. She completed her college education at Case Western Reserve University by obtaining her degree in art history and accounting. Nan had various careers from park systems, art gallery, and digital mapping.

Gary and Nan have been married 22 years. They raised a combined family of five children and have been blessed with five grandchildren.

Since retiring in July of 2002, they have been on the road as full-time RVers. They have traveled through 42 states and visiting a total of 60 national parks, monuments and historic sites combined. In their spare time, they both love to hike, bike and read.

## **Updates on Returning Volunteers**

### **Steve Harper – Castolon Campground Host & Backcountry Judy Brinkerhoff - Resource Management**



Big Bend is grateful to Steve and Judy as Steve spends his fourth season here and Judy makes it her third season. They will be with us till April.

Steve serves as a campground host and spends several hours hiking the west district backcountry. He is providing the park valuable information on the condition of trails with the use of written reports and photographs. His main interest is that of the plants and animals of the area.

Big Bend is benefiting from Judy's professional knowledge of birds, butterflies and plants as she prepares a manual on such wildlife of our Chisos Mountains. This manual will be a big help to our interpretation staff.

This past summer Steve and Judy spent four weeks in the Netherlands. Two weeks they lived on a 26 foot cruise boat and visited small coastal towns. During the second half of this vacation, they rented an automobile and traveled the interior of this lovely country.

While home, in northern California, Judy and Steve constructed a small pond with a waterfall. They used native plants that are beneficial to birds, butterflies, frogs, and dragonflies. Be sure to ask Judy how they constructed such a natural beauty.

### **Jim & Ginny Herrick** **Basin - Visitor Center**



Jim and Ginny are serving their sixth season at Big Bend and will be here from mid-October through

January 31, 2005. Though they can be readily found in the visitor center, they are especially known for the special projects they each work on. Jim is transcribing interviews conducted of our area old timers, putting their story into written word for use by our rangers and interpretation staff. Ginny is identifying the various fall and winter vegetation of the Chisos and producing a notebook of photos for use by the visitor centers.

After departing Big Bend last season, they spent February visiting a son who lives in La Cruces, New Mexico. Then they spent two weeks, in March, volunteering at Koinonia Partners.

Koinonia Partners is a Christian farm community located near Americus, Georgia. As a historic interracial retreat center, it ministers to the area's poor. Koinonia's unique house building concept led to the founding of Habitat for Humanity. Jim and Ginny attended to the care of the pecan orchard and helped with the bakery production and repair of the facilities.

During April and May, Jim and Ginny volunteered at Cape Hatteras National Seashore. They served in the visitor center, museum and lighthouse as interpreters.

The summer months were spent in New England, New York, and Michigan visiting sons and siblings.

